



County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of May 13th, 2024, 5:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms, 979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL Meeting called to order by Chair Martinez at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Katherine Lee (District 1), Tricia Wiltshire (District 2), Jeremy Sanford (District 3), Monica Martinez (District 5)

Absent: Martha Victoria Vega (District 4)

Staff: Rebecca Hurley, Juan Perez Alvarez, Alexis Rodriguez-Rocha

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS No modifications.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS One member of the public.

Jim Helmer: Lifelong resident of Ben Lomond addressed a concern regarding severe flooding in Ben Lomond Park and 30+ foot trees. Has received no response from CDFW and after reviewing County Policy, believes the County can address the issue as it is causing a “threat to infrastructure.” Asked for advice on next steps and what agencies to contact.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA Motion to approve: Lee/2nd: Wiltshire/All in favor.

a. Approve minutes from February 12th, 2024.....page 2-3

b. Consider Reports:

i. Aquatics Section Report.....page 4

ii. Maintenance Section Report.....page 5-6

iii. Planning Section Report..... page 7-9

iv. Recreation Section Report.....page 10

v. Reservations Section Report.....page 11

vi. Volunteer Section Report..... page 12-18

V. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

District 1: Big Stick had a great turnout for the Logjam Surfing Competition, which took place at Pleasure Point, and raised money for local charities. Visited Anna Jean Cummings and was able to see progress on mitigation and a maintenance worker weed whacking and cleaning up the Park. Commissioner Lee is working with Margaret Ingraham in hopes of hosting a weed pulling volunteer event on June 1st at Felt Street Park.

District 2: Thank you to Parks for hosting the Commissioner Workshop. Commissioner Wiltshire was able to attend the Willowbrook County Park Memorial Seating Area Unveiling. In April, she attended the Live Like Coco event at Pinto Lake, lovely to see the community and staff. Have had members of the public reaching out about bench memorial placards. Asked for and quickly discussed Hidden Beach Restroom progress (is there a potential for adult changing table?).

District 3: Mainly communications, not many events going on in the district. Several people have reached out and acknowledged that the facilities at Davenport Landing have improved. Suggestions from the public regarding a potential park at the schoolhouse site that burned in the CZU fire. Has received some questions and concerns about the data being collected for the North Coast Plan. Also received concern surrounding the Rail trail project and how that affects the organic farms in the area.

District 4: Absent

District 5: Acknowledged the several volunteer projects happening County wide and thanked the volunteers and Parks staff for their efforts to beautify the Parks across the County. Invited everyone to the Celebration at Felton Library and Felton Discover Park on Sat. June 8th and Felton Remembers event on Memorial Day Weekend.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VII. REGULAR AGENDA: ACTION ITEMS

- a. Elect Chair and Vice-Chair for Parks & Recreation Commission 2024.
Motion to nominate Monica Martinez as chair: Lee/2nd: Wiltshire/All in favor.
Motion to nominate Tricia Wiltshire as vice-chair: Lee/2nd: Sanford/All in favor.

VIII. REGULAR AGENDA: INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Mitigation Monitoring Report on Anna Jean Cummings – Mike Pruitt, Planner II.....page 19-34
The RTC entered into an agreement with the County to complete a riparian restoration on site involving planting, irrigation, and maintenance of the planting for a period of 5 years. Mitigation planting began on December 12, 2022, and was completed on May 8, 2023. The project will establish and protect a native riparian woodland on slope adjacent to the creek. Monitoring of the site will continue for a period of 5 years from the date of planting. The project is currently at 100% success rate and yearly monitoring reports will be provided by Biotic Resources Group.

b. County Park Friends Youth Outdoor Leaders (YOL) Presentation on Climate Justice Program made possible through the OEP grant. Group of teenagers that, through the program, have gotten to explore more areas of the County and several parks. The program has supported their growth as individuals and helped build their confidence. They would like to continue to see change and a growth in equity throughout the County through programs, artwork, etc.

- Commissioner Sanford – Would it be beneficial to connect YOL students with university students and create partnerships? Yes, it would be beneficial and inspirational to have someone at that level to look up to and work with. They understand the struggles of the POC community.
- Commissioner Wiltshire – How long have you been a part of the program? Some one year, others closer to two. Encouraged participants to connect with other peers at their high school and encourage more participation within the program. If they can use the skills they have learned, they can continue to build the program and create a larger impact.

c. Santa Cruz Coastal Lagoons and East Cliff Drive Resiliency Study
County Parks with Public Works has received a \$650,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy to do a feasibility study on the portion of E. Cliff roadway between Moran Lake, Schwann Lake, and Corcoran Lagoon.

- d. Commissioner reports on Work Plan.....page 35-37

See attached work plan document.

IX. NEXT MEETING: August 12th, 2024. ~~Location to be announced in public notice.~~ Meeting will be held at Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Rooms.

X. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE LISTING No written correspondence.

XI. ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:30 p.m.: Sanford/2nd: Lee/All in favor.